

## **Harvester Video Script**

If you work in a citrus grove, you have to learn about decontamination. When you decontaminate, you clean your clothing, skin and equipment with soap like products. Decontaminating yourself and your equipment will protect citrus groves from citrus canker, which protects citrus-related jobs from being lost.

The citrus industry contributes 9.3 million dollars to the economy of the state of Florida. The industry employs more than 100,000 people and benefits other businesses including the trucking industry.

Citrus canker is a plant disease that spreads easily; it does not harm people or animals. You cannot see citrus canker bacteria without a microscope, but you can see the symptoms of the disease. It causes lesions or sores on the fruit, leaves and stems of citrus trees. On leaves and fruit, symptoms include brown, raised lesions surrounded by oily, water-soaked edges and yellow rings or halos. Old lesions in leaves may fall out, creating a hole in the leaf. Citrus trees with citrus canker become weak, non-productive and continue to spread the disease.

Citrus canker bacteria may be spread by wind-blown rain, clothing, equipment or the movement of citrus material including leaves, fruit and branches. This is why it is very important to decontaminate your clothing and equipment. Citrus canker bacteria are microscopic, so you will not be able to see them in rain, on your clothing or equipment.

Remember, citrus canker may be spread from infected trees to healthy trees by wind-blown rain.

Citrus canker bacteria can also get on your clothes if you touch an infected tree. The citrus canker bacteria on your clothes can then infect healthy trees as you work.

Again, you cannot see the bacteria that cause citrus canker, so you will not know if you touched an infected citrus tree. You should always decontaminate to protect groves from this disease.

Citrus canker bacteria can get on your equipment if it touches an infected tree and can then spread to healthy trees as you move the equipment.

Again, remember citrus canker may be spread in different ways, by wind-blown rain, people or equipment that touch infected trees and then touch healthy trees. You cannot see citrus canker bacteria, so you will not know if you have touched an infected tree. Because you can spread the disease easily in droplets of water, if possible, avoid contact with wet citrus trees or fruit.

All citrus harvesting contractors and others working in and around citrus groves must sign a Citrus Canker Program Harvester / Handler Compliance Agreement and follow the rules.

Decontaminate to keep groves healthy and able to produce fruit and jobs.  
Decontaminate!

Leaves, limbs and soil can carry the citrus canker bacteria. Make sure you always check equipment for leaves, limbs and soil. Remove any debris and leave it inside the grove before you spray decontaminant on the equipment. Before leaving the grove make sure your pick sack, clothes, gloves and hats are free from citrus fruit, limbs and leaves.

Use spray loop systems to decontaminate equipment if provided. All surfaces of any equipment such as ladders or clippers must be decontaminated. If spray loops are not available use hand sprayers to cover the entire surface of the equipment to the point of run off. Make sure the type and amount of decontamination product used matches the

size of the item you are decontaminating. For example a spray bottle would cover one or two employees for a day of work and a three gallon pump sprayer would cover equipment such as clippers and ladders. Also, it is important to note that personal vehicles should not be parked inside citrus groves.

Workers must decontaminate their skin, clothing, gloves, pick sacks, all equipment, tools and anything else upon exiting a grove.

Before exiting the citrus grove be sure your skin, clothes, gloves, pick sacks, ladders and any other equipment are decontaminated. Some groves may have a spray loop system for personnel and equipment but if this is not available then please use spray bottles or handheld pump sprayers. Help other workers properly decontaminate.

Wear clean clothing everyday to work in the grove. You can't see citrus canker bacteria and they may be on your dirty clothes. Washing your clothes will help stop the spread of citrus canker.

Remember there are different decontamination products for equipment, your skin and clothing. Make sure you always use the correct decontamination product. Pick sacks, ladders and clippers must be decontaminated with equipment decontamination product. Make sure you always follow the directions on the label of the decontamination product to ensure the proper dilution and use. If you do not understand the directions please check with your crew leader.

The products used for decontamination of your skin and clothing are safe cleansing products; like the soap you use to wash your hands. If there is any citrus canker on you, the soap-like substance will kill it.

Do not use products that are made for equipment decontamination on your skin and clothing. Use equipment spray for equipment only because they are stronger like those used for cleaning objects other than skin and clothing. If you accidentally use equipment decontamination product on your skin or clothing immediately wash with water and tell your crew leader as soon as possible. Equipment decontaminant should be used on vehicles, pick sacks, ladders, clippers and other tools.

Always enter and leave a grove where decontamination products are available, if you do not see any decontamination products or are unsure where to enter the grove, please wait to enter and ask your crew leader. Leaving a grove without decontaminating can spread citrus canker. Any person or piece of equipment that leaves a grove must be properly decontaminated, and remember any equipment that leaves a grove must be cleaned prior to decontamination. Remember to decontaminate equipment with equipment decontaminant, and skin and clothing with personnel decontaminant.

Do the right thing. Make sure you decontaminate so you will be allowed to work. If you do not decontaminate, you will not be allowed to work. Decontaminate to keep citrus groves healthy and able to produce fruit and jobs.

If you have any questions about the difference between personnel and equipment decontamination spray, please ask your crew leader.

Remember to decontaminate, it's the law in Florida. All citrus harvesting contractors and others working in and around citrus groves must sign a Canker Program Harvester / Handler Compliance Agreement and follow the rules. Make sure you are decontaminating properly. If you have any questions about this video please ask your crew leader. Help kill citrus canker bacteria by decontaminating.

Remember, you can stop the spread of citrus canker. Prior to exiting citrus groves spray decontaminant on your skin, clothing and equipment. Practicing decontamination protects Florida citrus and will provide many jobs for years to come. Whenever you are confused about how to properly decontaminate, ask your crew leader.

Help us keep Florida agriculture safe from diseases like citrus canker. Thank you for your help!